

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Prior to an examination on the merits of the above-identified application, and any calculation of filing fees, please amend this application as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously presented) A composition for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of atopic disease, non-atopic eczema and psoriasis, which comprises a decoction or extract obtained from a subset of the set of herbs consisting of:

Radix Ledebouriella

Fructus Tribuli

Herba Potentilla Chinensis

Caulis Clematis Armandii

Radix Rehmannia

Radix Glycyrrhiza

Radix Paeonia Rubra

Cortex Dictamni Radicis

Herba Lopatheri

Spika Schizonepetae

in the substantial absence of any other herb;

said decoction or extract comprising one or more of those components present in fractions which run with Rf values in the ranges:

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0.00 to 0.100;

0.167 to 0.300;

0.400 to 0.533;

0.700 to 0.833; or

0.900 to 0.967

if an aqueous solution of a freeze-dried decoction of said set of herbs is subjected to chromatography on a Whatman 2cm x 55cm 3MM cellulose strip for 10 hours using a solvent mixture of butanol, ethanol and water in the proportions 4:1:1.

Claim 2 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoction or extract comprises one or more of those components present in fractions which run with Rf values in the range 0.00 to 0.100 under the said chromatography.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoction or extract comprises one or more of those components running with Rf values in the ranges 0.00 to 0.100, 0.167 to 0.300, 0.400 to 0.533, 0.700 to 0.833 or 0.900 to 0.967 which is capable of being extracted with water from said chromatography strip.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoction or extract comprises one or more of those components running with Rf values in the ranges 0.700 to 0.833 or 0.900 to 0.967 which is capable of being extracted with methanol from said chromatography strip.

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Claim 5 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said subset consists of one or more of the herbs:-

Cortex Dictamni Radicis

Radix Paeonia Rubra

Radix Rehmannia

Spika Schizonepetae

Radix Glycyrrhiza

in the substantial absence of any other herb.

Claim 6 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 5, wherein said subset consists of one of the said herbs in the substantial absence of any other herb.

Claim 7 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 6, wherein the one herb is *Radix Paeonia Rubra*.

Claim 8 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said subset consists of one or more of the following sets of herbs:-

(a) *Radix Paeonia Rubra*

Radix Glycyrrhiza

Radix Rehmannia

(b) *Cortex Dictamni*

Radix Paeonia Rubra

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Radix Glycyrrhiza

Radix Rehmannia

Radix Ledebouriella

Fructus Tribuli

or

(c) *Radix Paeonia Rubra*

Radix Glycyrrhiza

Spika Schizonepetae

in the substantial absence of any other herb.

Claim 9 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoction or extract is prepared by a process including removing those components extractable with hexane or other non-polar solvent.

Claim 10 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoction or extract is prepared by a process including an initial water extraction.

Claim 11 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, suitable for the treatment of atopic or non-atopic eczema.

Claim 12 (Previously presented) A composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein said decoction or extract is present in an amount which causes a percentage inhibition of interleukin 4 (IL4) induced CD23 expression of at least 25% in peripheral blood monocytes.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of atopic disease, non-atopic eczema and psoriasis comprising a treatment-effective amount of the composition of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Claim 14 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 13, which is formulated for oral, parenteral or topical administration.

Claim 15 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease selected from the group consisting of atopic disease, non-atopic eczema and psoriasis, which consists essentially of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and a treatment-effective amount of a decoction or extract obtained from one, or from a mixture of more than one, of the herbs:

Cortex Dictamni Radicis

Radix Paeonia Rubra

Radix Rehmannia

Spika Schizonepetae

Radix Glycyrrhiza

in the substantial absence of any other herb.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 15 formulated for oral, parenteral or topical administration.

Claim 17 (Previously presented) A method of treating a human or non-human animal suffering from, or susceptible to, a disease selected from the group consisting of atopic disease, non-atopic eczema and psoriasis, which comprises administering to said human or non-human animal a treatment-effective amount of the composition of claim 1.

Claim 18 (Previously presented) A method of treating a human or non-human animal suffering from, or susceptible to, a disease selected from the group consisting of atopic disease, non-atopic eczema and psoriasis, which comprises administering to said human or non-human animal a treatment-effective amount of the composition of claim 13.

Claim 19 (Previously presented) A method of treating a human or non-human animal suffering from, or susceptible to, a disease selected from the group consisting of atopic disease, non-atopic eczema and psoriasis, which comprises administering to said human or non-human animal a treatment-effective amount of the composition of claim 15.

Claim 20 (Cancelled).

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Claim 21 (New) A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the disease is atopic or non-atopic eczema.

Claim 22 (New) A method as claimed in claim 18 wherein the disease is atopic or non-atopic eczema.

Claim 23 (New) A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the disease is atopic or non-atopic eczema.